

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 71 are in this application.

The examiner objected to claims 1-67 because the term 'each hole section' lacked antecedent basis. Proper antecedent basis has been provided for the term 'each hole section' in all claims in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The examiner rejected claims 1-67 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Wylie et al (US 2004/0149431). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Wylie et al reference now fails to support the above referenced 35 US C 102(e) rejection in view of the claims 1-71 which now exist in this application.

Refer to figure 16 attached hereto which represents a figure from the specification of the above identified application, figure 16 being attached hereto for the examiner's convenience. The embodiments disclosed in this application recite a 'computer system', such as the computer system of figure 16, which is adapted for storing an 'automatic well planning drillstring design software' 62c1. When the drillstring design software 62c1 of figure 16 is executed by the processor 62a of the computer system, a set of 'drillstring design output data' 62b1 is generated which is adapted to be recorded or displayed on the 'recorder or display device' 62b of the computer system of figure 16.

Refer to figure 19 attached hereto which represents a figure from the specification of the above identified application, figure 19 being attached hereto for the examiner's convenience. Figure 19 illustrates an example of a typical 'drillstring design output display', illustrating the 'drillstring design output data' 62b1 of figure 16, that can be recorded or displayed on the 'recorder or display device' 62b of the computer system of figure 16.

In the specification of the above identified application, when the processor 62a executes the drillstring design software 62c1 of figure 16 in response to input data (which includes wellbore geometry and wellbore trajectory requirements), a method is practiced by the computer system of figure 16, the method representing a 'method of well planning in a well planning system'. The aforementioned 'method of well planning in a well planning system' comprises: (1) generating a summary of a drillstring in each hole section of a wellbore in response to the input data, the summary providing a drillstring design for the wellbore geometry of each hole section of the wellbore; and (2) recording or displaying at least a portion of the summary of the drillstring in the each hole section of the wellbore on a recorder or display device.

However, the Wylie reference cited by the examiner fails to support the above referenced 35 USC 102(e) rejection because the Wylie reference fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a computer system (of the type discussed above) which practices the above referenced 'method of well planning in a well planning system' comprising: (1) generating a summary of a drillstring in each hole section of a wellbore in response to the input data, the summary providing a drillstring design for the wellbore geometry of each hole section of the wellbore; and (2) recording or displaying at least a portion of the summary of the drillstring in the each hole section of the wellbore on a recorder or display device.

Refer to figure 3 attached hereto which is a representative example figure from the Wylie reference, figure 3 being attached hereto for the examiner's convenience. As illustrated in figure 3 from the Wylie reference attached hereto, the Wylie reference discloses a method of constructing a wellbore in an Earth formation, the wellbore including casing and other **mechanical** structures which are disposed in the wellbore. However, the Wylie reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest any kind of software, except in two places where a brief and vague reference to some kind of software is discussed, as follows:

First reference to software in Wylie:

"[0140]Geomechanical models and analysis are available, such as from Baroid, Geomechanics International, Sperry Sun, and Landmark, which take into account both chemical and mechanical borehole stability issues and can analyze the borehole stability from a mechanical standpoint....."

In the first reference to software in Wylie, the above referenced citation of "Geomechanical models" fails to even mention the word "drilling".

Second reference to software in Wylie:

*"[0146] Means, such as Landmark Graphic's 3D Drill View and 3D Drill View KM (Knowledge Management), allow the operator to visualize, analyze and interpret MWD/LWD and **drilling operational data** in real-time. The 3D visualization of real-time data, together with the pre-planned earth model, enables the operator to make more rapid decisions. The 3D Drill View has the capability to display and manipulate (rotate, translate, zoom) geoscience earth model data objects together with **drilling engineering and operations data** for integrated knowledge management and real-time decision making and offers integration and collaboration between drilling rig and operator with the capability for each site to visually manage data and improve decisions for the entire operation."* (emphasis supplied)

In the second reference to software in Wylie set forth above, there is constant reference to **drilling operations data**; however, there is no reference to any kind of "summary of a drillstring in each hole section of a wellbore, where the summary provides a drillstring design", as claimed.

Except for the 'first reference to software' and 'second reference to software' in Wylie duplicated above, the Wylie reference fails to otherwise disclose, teach or suggest any

kind of software, and, furthermore, Wylie fails to disclose a computer system which is adapted for practicing a 'method of well planning in a well planning system', as claimed, where the method comprises (1) generating a summary of a drillstring in each hole section of a wellbore in response to the input data, the summary providing a drillstring design for the wellbore geometry of each hole section of the wellbore; and (2) recording or displaying at least a portion of the summary of the drillstring in the each hole section of the wellbore on a recorder or display device.

Therefore, claims 1-67 in this application require a recitation of the following 'concept': "A method, practiced by a computer system, of well planning in a well planning system in response to input data comprising generating a summary of a drillstring in each hole section of a wellbore in response to input data" and "recording or displaying at least a portion of the summary of the drillstring in the each hole section of the wellbore on a recorder or display device".

In addition, claims 68-71 require a recitation of the following 'concept': "A method, practiced by an automatic well planning system stored in a computer system, adapted for creating a drilling operational plan... comprising: generating a drillstring design subtask, the drillstring design subtask further generating a summary of a drillstring in each hole section of a wellbore in response to the input data...; and recording or displaying at least a portion of the summary of the drillstring in the each hole section of the wellbore on a recorder or display device."

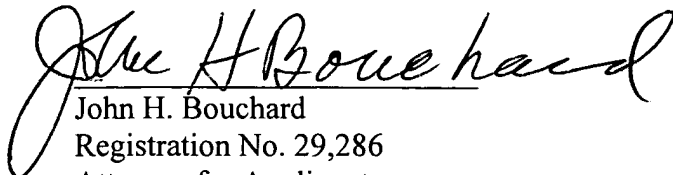
In view of the 'concept' recited in claims 1-71 in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the claims which now exist this application are allowable over the prior art Wylie reference cited by the examiner, and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 through 67 and new claims 68 through 71 is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/802,545
Amendment
Reply to Office Action of 11/30/2007

Please charge any additional fee and credit any overpayment to deposit account 07-1078.

Respectfully Submitted,


John H. Bouchard
Registration No. 29,286
Attorney for Applicant

P.O. Box 1099
Richmond, Texas 77406
281-728-3544

Date: February 5, 2008